

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 21-23 have been newly added. Claims 6, 8, and 14 have been amended.

The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

2. Claims 6, 8, and 14 have been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection.

3. Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 11-13, and 16-18 are not anticipated by Haverinen et al. (US 2002/0012433, "Haverinen").

Haverinen is not a valid reference because its filing date, 8 January 2001, does not precede the 7 April 2000 priority date of the present application.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 are patentable over the combination of Haverinen in view of Chuah et al. (US 6,594,240, "Chuah")

Claims 9 and 10, and 19 and 20 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively.

Chuah at least fails to disclose or suggest storing data on an IC card, coupling the IC card to an access point, or connecting network resources to an access point based on the stored data, all as recited by claim 1.

Chuah also at least fails to disclose or suggest a card means for coupling an IC card to an access point and setting up a

connection to network resources based on data stored on the IC card, as recited by claim 16.

Chuah provides means to improve QoS (Quality of Service) in UMTS networks by providing different access priority mechanisms (column 3, lines 34-44). However, the present invention is related to connecting access points to other network elements in wireless telecommunications systems. An access point may be e.g. a base station (BS), a radio network controller (RNC) controlling one or several BSs, or an entity including a BSD and an RNC. Chuah merely describes access points in connection with UMTS base stations and RNC elements (Figure 1) and fails to teach or even hint at utilizing IC cards in access points.

As mentioned above, Haverinen is not valid reference. Therefore the combination of Haverinen and Chuah fails to render claims 9, 10, 11 and 20 obvious.

5. Claims 21-23 have been added to include the features deleted by the amendments to claims 6, 8, and 14.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

02 March 04
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

Date: 3/2/04 Signature: Doris W. Perman
Person Making Deposit